

WATER CONSERVATION



Fort Detrick Environment

O U T S I D E S C O O P

- ◆ Water in the early morning so that you don't lose your water to evaporation during the hot mid-day sun.
- ◆ Keep grass at least 2 inches high to shade roots and hold in moisture.
- ◆ Aerate lawns at least once a year. Use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation. Saves 750-1500 gallons per month.
- ◆ Water only when grass or plants need it. How do you know? Step on the grass, if it springs back up, you don't need to water. If it stays flat, it's time to water again in the morning. Remember the earlier the better!
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Ask your local garden center for advice in choosing the right types of trees and plants. Use native plants.
- ◆ Use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers. Water plants only.
- ◆ Don't leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Your garden hoses can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours, so don't leave the sprinkler running all day. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn it off.
- ◆ Don't water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs ... not the paved areas.
- ◆ Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks.
- ◆ Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over watering some while under watering others.
- ◆ Bathe your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- ◆ When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- ◆ Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, walks and patios.
- ◆ Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Keep them drip-free.
- ◆ The self service auto wash located at the Auto Shop is the only approved location on Fort Detrick for washing privately owned vehicles. POV's may NOT be washed in the housing areas.
- ◆ When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.
- ◆ Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.

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- ◆ In the event of a drought, the Fort Detrick Commander may implement additional water conservation measures for Fort Detrick water customers.

Prepared by the Fort Detrick Environmental Management Office. For more information please contact 301-619-3163